

SITE RECONNAISSANCE
AT
NEW RIVER STORAGE DEPOT (NRSD), VIRGINIA
NOVEMBER 12-14, 1997

Prepared for
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III

Prepared by
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

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INTRODUCTION

A site reconnaissance was conducted by Gannett Fleming (GF) with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on November 12-14, 1997. The purpose of the site reconnaissance was to revisit on-site properties previously sampled as well as visit several adjacent properties that have been deeded by the Army to other owners. This resulted in the identification of several on-site and off-site areas suitable for a second sampling round, tentatively to be conducted in February 1998.

The participants in the first day activities were:

Robert Thomson	-	USEPA
Devlin Harris	-	VADEQ
Robert Richardson	-	ACO/Radford AAP
Robert Davie	-	USAEC
Rex Goodnight	-	ACO/Radford AAP
Kenneth Andraschko	-	HQ Army IOC
(b) (4)	-	
(b) (4)	-	Gannett Fleming

We were also introduced to the new facility commander, Lt. Colonel Armando Lopez.

The activities conducted during the three-day site visit were as follows:

Trip Activities - November 12, 1997

The site visit participants assembled Wednesday morning at the headquarters building in the office of Mr. Robert Davie. The site reconnaissance program was to visit both on-site and off-site areas at NRSD in order to gain a better understanding of facility conditions. The eight-person team, listed above, departed for the facility late morning. The weather conditions were cloudy with the temperature about 40°. The first area visited was the igniter buildings complex. The condition of the red conductive floors were observed to be degraded as a result of exposure to the weather. The red staining of soils were also evident adjacent to the cement floors. The team then visited the railroad transfer platform area. A manhole (No. 18) was opened on the north side of the transfer platform area. This is the location of sample station No. SL-05. The railroad transfer platforms were inspected and found to have screened windows making access and sampling possible.

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The team drove by the old wastewater treatment plant (Area K), noting the state of disrepair of the facility.

Next, the prototype building area (Area C) was inspected and a sump lid was opened. No changes to this area or the burning grounds were noted since the last site visit.

Area E - Bag Loading Building No. 405 was toured. Conductive paint was observed to be running down the side of the building and out onto the ground surface. Areas of Bag Loading Building 405 were noted to have had the roof torn down. The conductive flooring was in varying stages of decay. An elevator shaft was also inspected at the building. It was found to have oil-stained soils at the bottom of the shaft. The soils were reportedly tested previously by the Army and considered to be non-hazardous.

The field team walked from the bag loading buildings to former Building 412, the Container and Shipping Magazine. Only the foundation remains and, as seen in the accompanying Photo No. 12, contains remnants of the red conductive floor material.

The final area inspected on November 12 is the stream area shown as Area G on the accompanying facility base map and also seen in the USGS map on Figure 2. The small stream, which flows to the east along the southern portion of the facility was found to serve as a dumping area for wood and for drums that were observed to contain a tar-like substance.

The accompanying photographs of the stream depict the debris. This north branch of the stream appears to originate on the facility property and drains into the main branch. Above the confluence approximately 4,000 feet is the former sewage treatment plant. The field team concluded field work at Area G and returned to the RAAP headquarters building.

Trip Activities - November 13, 1997

A three-person team, R. Thomson, D. Harris, and F. Swit, returned to the NRSD area on Thursday morning. The weather was overcast, light rain, temperature 32°. The team traveled to the bag loading areas formerly owned by RAAP that were deeded to the private sector in 1963. The first stop was at Building 445 (in Area I), which is owned by Mar-Bal, Inc. This building and others off site differ from the bag loading buildings on the current NRSD property from the perspective that they remain intact with roofs. As a result, the conductive floors have not been subjected to rain and snow for many years. The floors still have gray paint coating and do not exhibit the decay that occurs when the paint is in direct contact with precipitation. Mar-Bal, Inc.

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currently uses Building 445 for small quantity storage. Building 453, a former powder magazine, was inspected. Only the foundation remains. A debris pile of transite-type roof material was next to the foundation. Both this material and red conductive floor material appear to contain asbestos-type fibers. Adjacent to these buildings is an electric transformer on a pole. It appears to be old and out of service.

The Old Flow Laboratories complex was then visited. This area (labeled Area H on Figure 1) is located in the former bag loading Building No. 465-A. The laboratory complex was inspected by the field team with a flashlight. Numerous animal cages were seen. In one of the hallways sample bottle labels were found on the floor along with printouts listing lab bottle inventories. One room was found to contain a wood pallet on which approximately 20 to 30 document boxes are piled and sealed with shrink wrap around the entire palletized pile of boxes. These boxes are assumed to represent laboratory operations files. Moving down an adjacent hallway, piles of possible friable, asbestos-containing materials were seen. The team departed from the hallway immediately.

The various buildings in Area H were toured. These included the three service and shipping magazines (Buildings 471, 472 and 473). An adjacent Building No. 8516 was also inspected. It was noted to be in apparent current usage. One drum, labeled flammable, was observed in an open doorway. The entire Area H contains a variety of loading buildings (2), shipping magazines (3), igniter service magazines (2), warehouses (2), canteen (1), boiler house (1), along with transformers and overgrown areas along pathways where various debris, including drums were seen. A focused walking survey throughout this area, taking distance measurements, would provide a good understanding of a complex area that served a variety of functions.

Subsequent to walking inspections of the area, the team met with Mr. John Treese, the Manager of Mar-Bal, Inc., at the New River Valley Plant north of Building 445. Mr. Thomson summarized his observations of Mar-Bal-owned properties regarding current property conditions and possible future scenarios including USACE clean up vs. cash-out programs at sites with contamination.

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Trip Activities - November 14, 1997

A general meeting was conducted on Friday morning with EPA, VADEQ and various representatives of RAAP. Mr. Thomson summarized the previous two days of site inspections for Lt. Colonel Armando Lopez, RAAP facility commander, and the assembled group. He indicated the status of the program to date and proposed a field sampling program to be conducted by EPA (using Gannett Fleming contractor team) in the general time frame of February 1998. He indicated that a positive spirit of cooperation exists between the various parties involved with restoration activities at RAAP and NRSD.

ORIGINAL

SITE MAPS

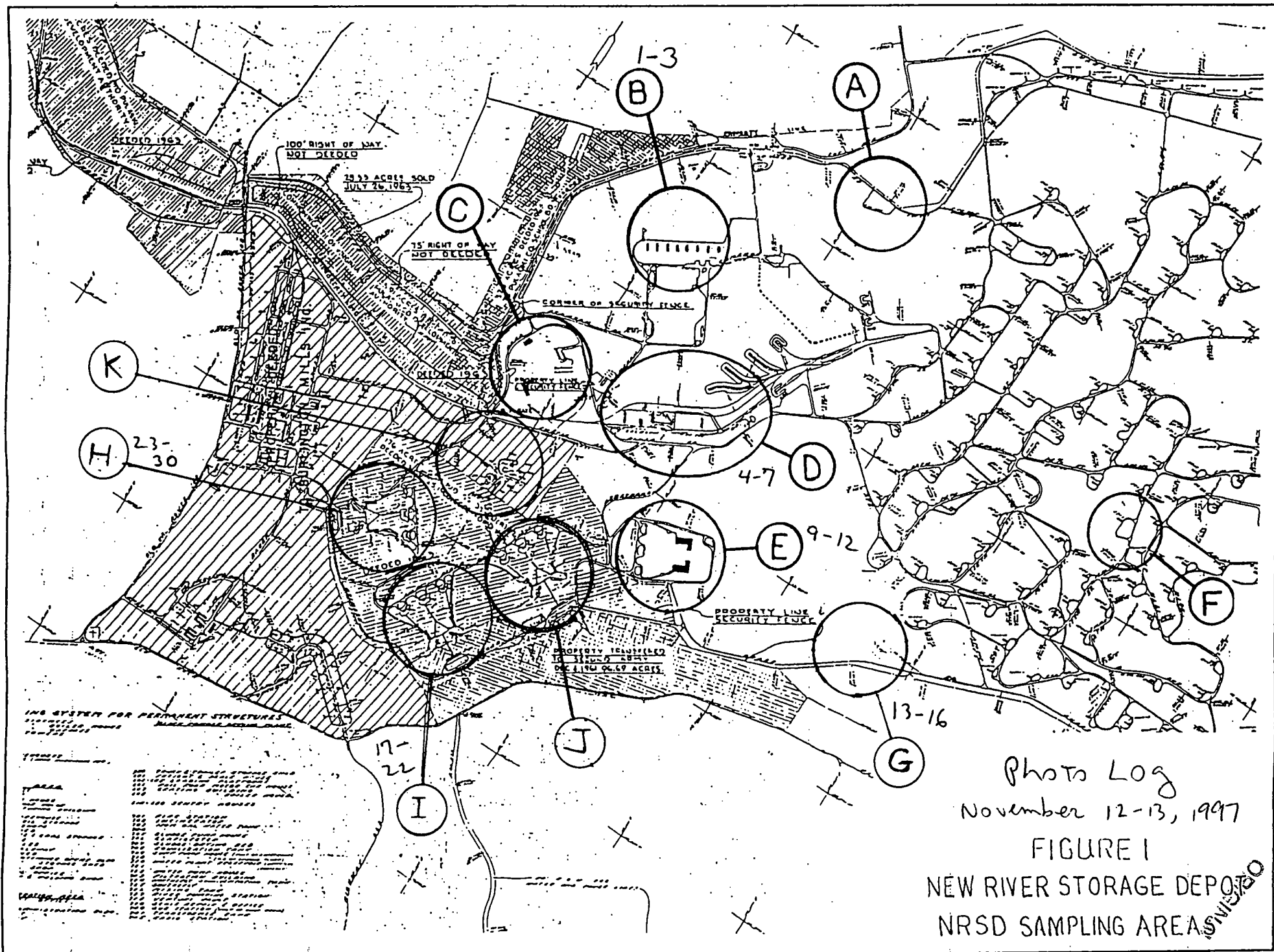
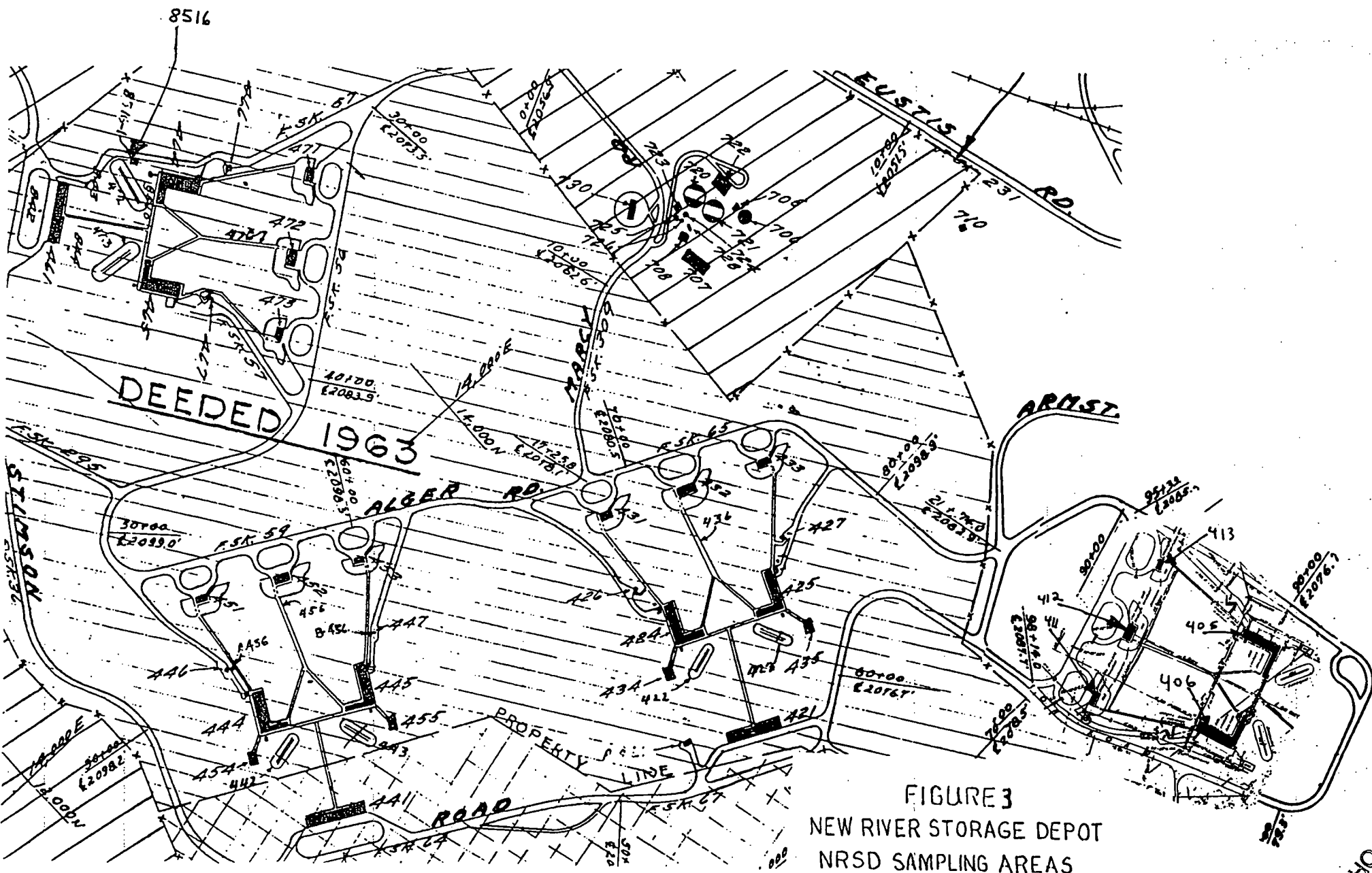




Figure 2. Local study area location map, Dublin, Virginia. Scale 1:24,000.



ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 1: Igniter area showing two flash reducer loading buildings.



NRSD PHOTO 2: Red conductive floor material at Igniter area.



NRSD PHOTO 3: Red conductive flooring material stain on soil surface. Note sample hole #SS-11 from June 1997 sampling event.

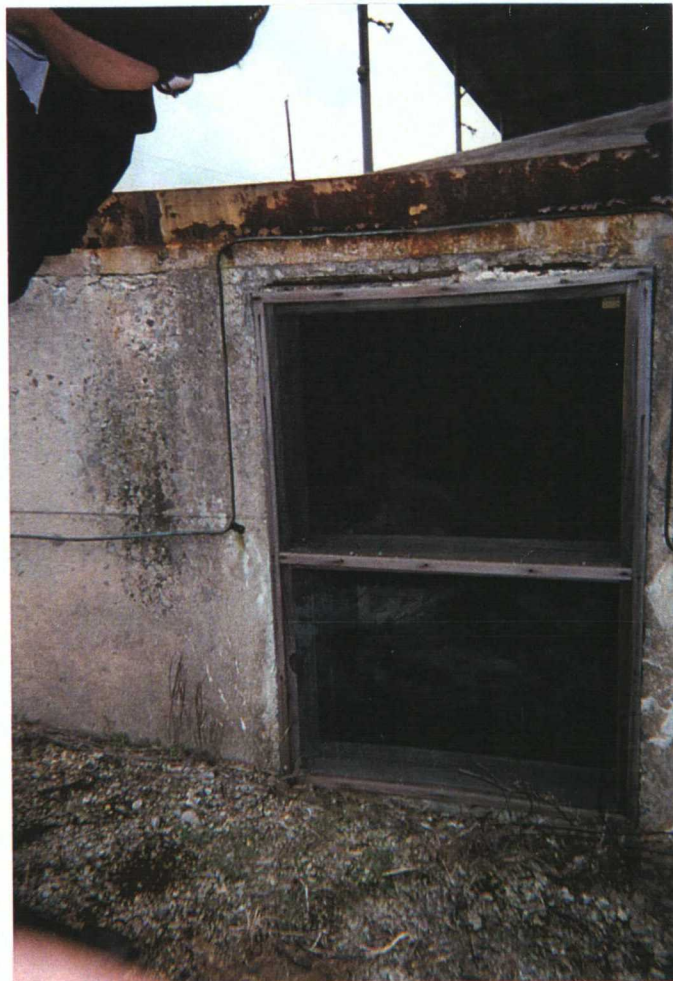


NRSD PHOTO 4: Manhole No. 18 near railroad transfer platforms. Sampling Station SL-05.

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 5: Interior of Transfer Platform 603.



**NRSD PHOTO 6:
Exterior of Transfer
Platform 603.**

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 7: Interior of Transfer Platform 602.



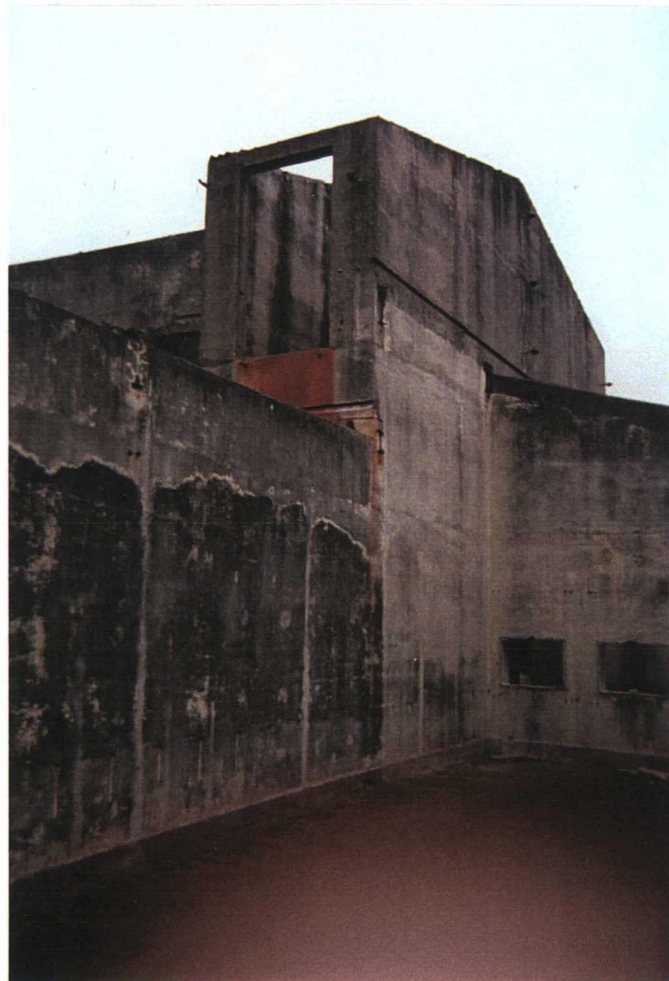
NRSD PHOTO 8: Phototype building area - sump.

ORIGINAL

NRSD PHOTO 9:
Building 405 with conductive
paint cascading from the
2nd floor.



NRSD PHOTO 10:
Bag Loading Building 405
with portion of roof absent -
previously torn down.



ORIGINAL



**NRSD PHOTO 11: Abandoned elevator shaft in Building 405.
Note the oil stained soil (previously tested by the Army).**



**NRSD PHOTO 12: Only the building foundation remains from Building 412.
(The container and shipping magazine for bag loading buildings 404 and 405.)**

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 13: View of small stream from roadway adjacent to High Explosives Magazine 4603-3.



NRSD PHOTO 14: Small stream near H.E.M. 4603-3 showing wood and drum debris.

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 15: Closeup of wood and drum debris in stream.



NRSD PHOTO 16: Confluence of debris containing stream with stream branch draining from abandoned sewage treatment plant.

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 17: Bag loading Building 445.



NRSD PHOTO 18: View from second floor of Building 445.

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 19: Building 445 - Red conductive floor with gray paint at door entrance. Inside the doorway is linoleum tile floor.



NRSD PHOTO 20: Building 445 - Red conductive floor with gray paint coating.



NRSD PHOTO 21: Remnant of smokeless power service magazine No. 453 near Building 445.



NRSD PHOTO 22:
Location of Transformer No. 27 adjacent to Buildings 445 and 453. Note the transformer's cover at base of sign post.

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 23: Old Flow Laboratory complex in bag loading Building 465.
Animal cages are located in both the interior and exterior of the building.

SWINE SERUM (RAW)

LOT:

VOLUME 2500 ml

CAT. NO. 52-024-99

STORE AT -20°C TO -10°C

DENVER SERUM-DIV.

Flow Laboratories 
McLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102 U.S.A.

NRSD PHOTO 24:
Serum bottle labels found
in Building 465.

BOVINE SERUM (RAW)

LOT:

VOLUME 2500 ml

CAT. NO. 52-015-99

STORE AT -20°C TO -10°C

DENVER SERUM DIV.

Flow Laboratories 
McLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102 U.S.A.

NRSD PHOTO 25:
Building 465 - Probable second
floor wastewater drain to
drainage channel. Probably
drained floors that were hosed
to wash under cages.



NRSD PHOTO 26: Cement cover for floor drains in
Building 465 (Flow Labs).

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 27: Covered walkway from bag loading Building 465 to shipping magazine.

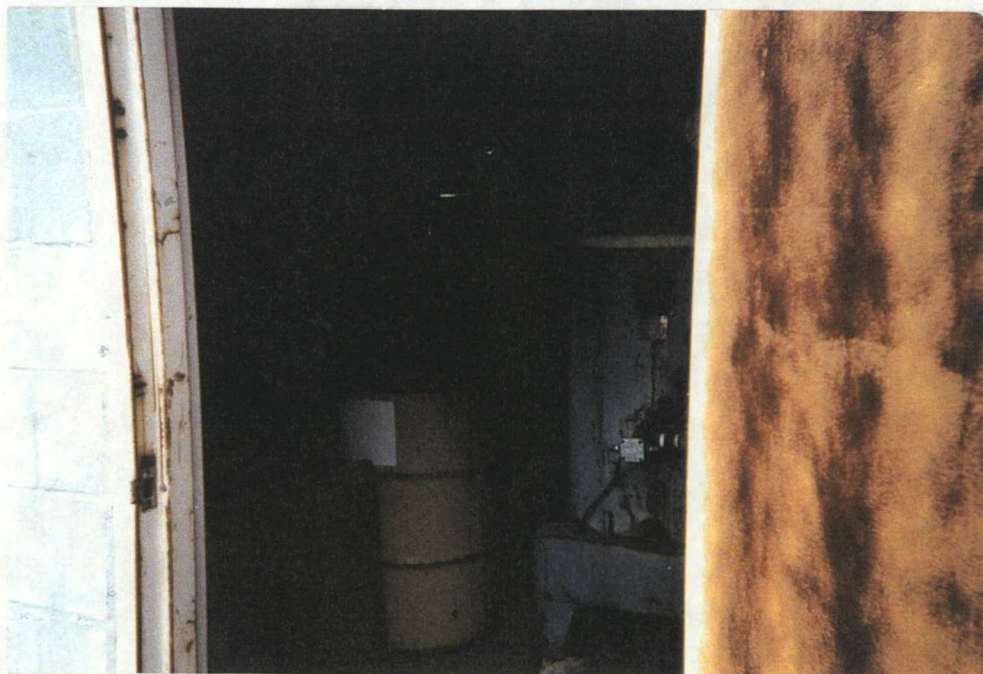


NRSD PHOTO 28: Shipping magazine 472.

ORIGINAL



NRSD PHOTO 29: Building 8516.



NRSD PHOTO 30: Flammable drum at Building 8516.